

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Scouting A Christian

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (2/3/08 - AM)

Introduction:

1. We are honored today to have many scouts with us in this service today.
2. I have always loved and appreciated the work and mission of the Scouts.
3. I actually participated as a Boy Scout for some time in my youth.
4. Many of the young men in our church youth group did it together.
5. The motto of the Scouts is admirable (Boy Scout Oath or Promise):
On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.
6. The Scouts also adhere to twelve Scout Laws.
7. In this lesson, I would like for us to consider them from an even further Christian perspective

Discussion:

LAW #1 - A Christian (Scout) is Trustworthy.

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

I Corinthians 4:2 says, *“In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”* (NASB)

LAW #2 - A Christian (Scout) is Loyal.

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

Matthew 6:24 says, *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* (NKJV)

LAW #3 - A Christian (Scout) is Helpful.

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

Titus 3:14 says, *“And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.”* (ESV)

LAW #4 - A Christian (Scout) is Friendly.

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

James 3:17 says, *“But the wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere.”* (CEV)

LAW #5 - A Christian (Scout) is Courteous.

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

Acts 28:7 says, *“Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us, and entertained us three days courteously.”* (ASV)

Because of this man's kind and courteous nature Paul heard his sick father.

LAW #6 = A Christian (Scout) is Kind.

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

Colossians 4:6 says, *“When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should.”* (NCV)

LAW #7 = A Christian (Scout) is Obedient.

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

Titus 3:1 says, *“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.”* (NASB)

LAW #8 = A Christian (Scout) is Cheerful.

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

Proverbs 17:22 - *“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”* (NIV)

LAW #9 = A Christian (Scout) is Thrifty.

A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

Good stewardship is an important part of our Christian walk.

I Peter 4:10 says, *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* (NKJV)

LAW #10 = A Christian (Scout) is Brave.

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

I Thessalonians 2:2 says, *“Before we came to you, we suffered in Philippi. People there insulted us, as you know, and many people were against us. But our God helped us to be brave and to tell you his Good News.”* (NCV)

LAW #11 = A Christian (Scout) is Clean.

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Psalms 51:10 says, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”* (ESV)

LAW #12 = A Christian (Scout) is Reverent.

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

Ephesians 5:21 says, *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* (NIV)

Conclusion:

1. These laws could probably be summed up with the Golden Rule.
2. **Matthew 7:12** says, *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* (NKJV)
3. How do you measure up?
4. As we close our lesson I want to remind you of the Boy Scout Motto.
5. “Be Prepared.”
6. “Be prepared for what?” someone once asked Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting said, “Why, for any old thing.”
7. Are you prepared to meet God in judgment? Are you prepared to face tomorrow?